



animal
wellness
action

CENTER
FOR A
HUMANE
ECONOMY

For Immediate Release: August 26, 2025

Contact: Lindsey von Busch at 732-284-9089 | lindsey@animalwellnessaction.org
Carey Theil at 781-488-3526 | carey@grey2kusa.org

Greyhound Protection Act Would End Long Era of Dog Racing in America

***Bill Comes in Wake of Greyhound Track Closures Around the nation, Bans in 44 States, and
Startling Reports of On-Track Injuries***

WASHINGTON – Animal Wellness Action and GREY2K USA Worldwide applauded Reps. Salud Carbajal, D-Calif., Randy Fine, R-Fla., Zach Nunn, R-Iowa, and Don Davis, D-N.C., for introducing bipartisan legislation to phase out greyhound racing. The Greyhound Protection Act, which amends the Animal Welfare Act, also outlaws remote gambling on dog races, and prevents greyhounds from being put into interstate or international commerce for the purpose of greyhound racing. The bill is H.R. 5017.

"Greyhounds are sweet, gentle dogs, and for generations they have been exploited by the gambling industry," said **Christine A. Dorchak, president and general counsel of GREY2K USA Worldwide**. "We are a dog loving nation, and greyhound racing goes against our values about the humane treatment of dogs."

Once the sixth largest spectator sport in the United States, greyhound racing now happens just at two tracks in West Virginia, both owned by Delaware North, a New York-based gambling and food-service company, which has taken actions to signal it wants to wean itself away entirely from the enterprise. Greyhound racing is illegal in 44 states, and remote gambling on dog races has recently been prohibited in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Oregon. A generation ago, there were 60 tracks in the United States, so the decline of racing has been precipitous.

"Greyhound racing has been in a death spiral for a generation, and this legislation to end the spectator sport codifies what the American public wants," said **Wayne Pacelle, president of Animal Wellness Action**. "Greyhounds should be safely on the laps of their humans and not taking a lap on a racing oval and putting the animals at risk of serious injury in front of nearly empty bleachers."

Dogs used for racing are kept confined in stacked metal cages for up to 23 hours a day. When let out to race, they suffer serious injuries including broken legs and backs, crushed skulls, and paralysis. Greyhound breeders in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado have been documented killing rabbits in cruel “live lure” training exercises.

Foreign dog tracks are also working to capitalize on the end of greyhound racing in the U.S. by appealing to American gamblers for the first time. Thousands of greyhounds are killed in foreign jurisdictions.

“Greyhound racing is a relic of an era long-past in the United States. It is cruel, inhumane, and thoroughly unpopular with the American public – which is why nearly every state in the union has already voted to outlaw it,” said **Congressman Carbajal, the lead Democrat sponsor of [H.R. 5017](#)**. “As a lifelong friend to animals and a proud member of the Animal Protection Caucus, I’m proud to stand with colleagues from both sides of the aisle and states from across our nation to introduce legislation that will finally put an end to this brutal practice and promote the universal welfare of our greyhounds.”

“It’s great to work on a bill that protects man’s best friend,” said **Congressman Randy Fine, the lead Republican cosponsor and a former gaming executive from the state that until 2020 had the largest number of tracks operating in the U.S.** “These animals deserve to be treated with respect and shouldn’t be exploited. In light of National Dog Day, I’m proud to contribute to this important legislation.”

“The Greyhound Protection Act puts an end to the unnecessary, cruel, and risky practice of greyhound racing. For far too long, track operators have exploited animals for gaming dollars. To stop these inhumane and criminal practices, we must ban greyhound racing once and for all,” said **Congressman Don Davis**.

Since 2020, dog tracks have closed in Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, and Texas. Those announcements came not long after Florida voters in 2018 approved Amendment 13, which banned all live racing in the state by the end of 2020. Floridians approved the measure by a landslide vote of 69% to 31%, even though the vote took place in the industry’s historic stronghold. Just prior to the launch of the ballot measure campaign, Florida had 12 of the 18 operating tracks in the United States.

The company that owns the final two dog tracks, Delaware North, is neutral on the Greyhound Protection Act and supports free-market legislation that would allow its casinos to operate free of dog racing. However, West Virginia law currently mandates that greyhound racing continue as a condition of offering other forms of gambling. The state also requires annual subsidy payments of \$17 million to owners of racing dogs. Delaware North is a privately held company based in Buffalo and built around gambling and food service. In 2022 Delaware North did shut down its greyhound racing venue at the Southland Casino Hotel in West Memphis, Ark.,

signaling the company's view that greyhound racing will not be a future part of its business empire.

The Greyhound Protection Act has been [endorsed](#) by more than 250 animal protection groups, local animal shelters, anti-gambling organizations, international NGOs, and greyhound adoption groups. In the last Congress, a nearly identical bill won the support of 80 cosponsors. Notable endorsers include Stop Predatory Gambling, the Federation of Humane Organizations of West Virginia, Eastwood Ranch Rescue, the National Greyhound Adoption Program, the National Humane Education Society and Best Friends Animal Society.

The federal government has authority on this subject because dogs are bred and transported across state lines for racing and races are broadcast to numerous states for simulcast gambling. The bill amends the Animal Welfare Act to achieve its purpose of ending greyhound racing.

[GREY2K USA Worldwide](#) is the largest greyhound protection organization in the United States with more than 300,000 supporters. As a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization, the group works to pass stronger greyhound protection laws and end the cruelty of dog racing on both national and international levels. GREY2K USA Worldwide also promotes the rescue and adoption of greyhounds across the globe. For more information, go to www.GREY2KUSA.org or visit GREY2K USA Worldwide on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

[Animal Wellness Action](#) is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) whose mission is to help animals by promoting laws and regulations at federal, state and local levels that forbid cruelty to all animals. The group also works to enforce existing anti-cruelty and wildlife protection laws. Animal Wellness Action believes helping animals helps us all. X: @AWAction_News

[The Center for a Humane Economy](#) is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(3) whose mission is to help animals by helping forge a more humane economic order. The first organization of its kind in the animal protection movement, the Center encourages businesses to honor their social responsibilities in a culture where consumers, investors, and other key stakeholders abhor cruelty and the degradation of the environment and embrace innovation as a means of eliminating both. The Center believes helping animals helps us all. X: @TheHumaneCenter